

## REMARKS

Claims 22 through 31 remain pending in the present application. Claims 22 and 31 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 22 through 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the German patent to Kiefel in view of U.S. Patent to Karabedian, Konermann and admitted prior art. The Examiner alleges that this combination would render Applicant's invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

Claim 22 has been amended. Claim 22 now defines the main cooling ring arranged above and in the direction of production behind the blow head. Also, the nozzles of the main cooling ring are directed in the direction of production. The first of the nozzles has a smaller diameter than the second of the nozzles. The first nozzles are arranged underneath and in the direction of production before the second nozzles. The additional cooling ring is arranged adjacent the blow head of the blown film extruder underneath and in the direction of production before the main cooling ring. Also, the measuring and controlling device is above and in the direction of production behind a freezing zone across the circumference and it individually controls the additional cooling gas streams as a function of the measured film thickness.

The art relied on by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. Specifically, the primary reference, Kiefel, fails to disclose or suggest two exit planes for the main cooling ring. The Kiefel reference only discloses an additional cooling ring (34) and a main cooling ring with one exit plane. There is no suggestion or motivation in Kiefel to improve

the efficiency of the Kiefer device by separating the main cooling ring as claimed by Applications.

The Karabedian reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest an additional cooling ring being individually controlled. Instead, the Karabedian device discloses a multiplicity of interchanging cooling gas exit nozzles and suction nozzles. Karabedian fails to disclose or suggest the combination of a main cooling ring having different exit planes with an additional ring which can control its segments. Thus, the combination with Kiefel fails to disclose Applicant's invention.

The Konermann reference only discloses a device having an additional cooling ring arranged in the direction of production behind the main cooling ring. Konermann fails to provide or suggest any additional teaching for the cooling device. In the present invention, the additional cooling ring is arranged in the direction of production before the main cooling ring. Thus, the combination of Kiefel in view of Karabedian, Konermann and the admitted prior art failed to disclose or Applicant's invention.

Thus, Applicant believes Claim 22 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 23-30 which depend from Claim 22 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

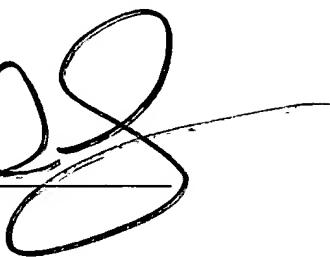
The Examiner has rejected Claims 26-30 as being unpatentable over the cited references further in view of Zimmerman and Planeta. The Zimmerman and Planeta references fail to overcome the deficiencies of the cited three references. Thus, these combinations would fail to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for the same reasons as Claim 22. Claim 31 has been amended to be patterned after Claim 22. Thus, the remarks with

respect to Claim 22 equally apply to Claim 31. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 31 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
W. R. Duke Taylor  
Reg. No. 31,306

Dated: February 13, 2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/jp